

Upper Arlington Juvenile Diversion Program



Details of an Alternative Program Available to First-Time Juvenile Offenders

The purpose of the Upper Arlington Juvenile Diversion Program (UAJDP) is to handle first-time juvenile offenders who have committed offenses within the City of Upper Arlington.

The goal of UAJDP is to help juveniles avoid further involvement in crime, and/or inappropriate behaviors. This is accomplished by providing the juveniles with an understanding of the consequences of criminal behavior, and by helping the juveniles learn to cope with life in a more appropriate manner.

How Does The Program Work?

When a juvenile is apprehended by a police officer for a status, or misdemeanor offense, the officer completes an apprehension form. This information is reviewed by the Juvenile Detective, who determines whether or not the juvenile is eligible for the program based on prior record (or lack thereof), and other established criteria. If eligible, the juvenile, with one or both parents, must participate in an intake interview with the Program Coordinator, at the end of which they are assigned a Diversion Court Date.

Diversion Court is presided over by a Referee. The Referees are each attorneys, all of whom reside within the Tri-Village area.



Reports from the Police Division, the Program Coordinator, and perhaps a counseling center are compiled for the Referee. At the Diversion Court hearing, the Referee determines the specific requirements, which the juvenile must abide for successful completion of the UAJD. These requirements, and length of time in the program, are based on these reports, comments from the juvenile, and his/her parent(s), and the seriousness of the offense.

Upon successful completion of all requirements by the juvenile, he/she is released from the program. The matter will be dismissed, therefore the juvenile will have no criminal record for the incident.

If the juvenile does not abide by the rules of the program, or is charged with subsequent violations during the program, charges may be filed against the juvenile in the Franklin County Court of Domestic Relations, possibly resulting in a formal juvenile record.

Juvenile Misdemeanor Offenses

The following is a brief list of common offenses:

- Alcohol/Drug Offenses
- Criminal Damaging
- Criminal Trespassing
- Disorderly Conduct:
 - False Alarms
 - Fireworks
 - Theft

Status Offenses

(An act prohibited until a person reaches a certain age, at which time it is no longer an offense.)

- Curfew
- Home Truancy
- School Truancy
- Possession of Alcohol

Who May Participate?

Participation in the UAJD is voluntary. If a juvenile chooses to participate in the program, then full participation is required by the juvenile, and his/her parent(s).

In order to participate, the juvenile and his/her parent(s) must acknowledge in writing that the Upper Arlington Police Division had reason to believe a law was being violated. The juvenile and his/her parents must also understand they are waiving their right to a trial in the Franklin County Court of Domestic Relations. If at any time during the course of the program the juvenile and his parents wish to have a trial and exercise their right to counsel, they may withdraw from the program and formal charges will be filed.

Length of the Program

Involvement in the UAJD varies according to the specific needs of the juvenile and his/her family, and is determined by the Referee.

Program Requirements

There are four general rules that must be followed by all participants:

1. To obey all city, county, state, and federal laws.
2. The participant should not leave the State of Ohio without notifying the Program Coordinator, and without parental permission.
3. The participant must not be truant from home or school.
4. The participant must be truthful, and cooperative with school authorities, parents, and the court.

In addition, the Referee may order any or all of the following:

- Community Service Work
- Restitution
- Counseling
- Special Programs, such as:
 - Directions for Youth
 - Checkmate
 - Tri-Village Mentor League
- House arrest or early curfew
- Letters of apology
- Essay writing

Confidentiality

All proceedings and information regarding the juvenile, and his/her family are confidential, and not a matter of public record.

Participation Fee

There is a \$100 fee to participate in this program. This fee is non-negotiable and is payable to the City of Upper Arlington.

